

L'UMILE PIANTA.

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MISS L. GRAY, 3, St. David's Avenue, Bexhill, Sussex.

Years 1898-1901—

MRS. PICTON HUGHES-JONES, Pond Hill Cottage,
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Years 1899-1900—

MISS L. FAUNCE, 27, Craven Road, Hyde Park, W.

Years 1902-4—

MISS H. E. WIX, at Fredville, nr. Dover.

Years 1905-6—

MISS F. W. YOUNG, 102, Cranbrook Road, Ilford,
Essex.

Years 1907-8—

MISS MACFARLANE, at 8, Upper Phillimore Gardens, S. Kensington, S.W.

Years 1909-10—

MRS. BELLERBY, 11, Northanger Road, Streatham Common, S.W.

Years 1911-14—

MISS J. R. SMITH, at 40, Cornwall Gardens, South Kensington, S.W.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

1909. Aitken, J. Y., University College Hospital, Gower Street, London, W.C.
1894. Barrett, M., 26, Thornton Avenue, Chiswick, W. (home).
1911. Crowe, D. B. E., Gweedore, Brentwood, Essex (sole).
1914. Garnett, H. N., c/o Mrs. Reynolds, Corndean Hall, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire (post).
1908. Haggie, G. M., 1,290, Beach Drive, Oak Bay, British Columbia.
1912. King, M., at Bredenbury Court, Bredenbury, Bromyard (post).
1910. Lobjoit, M.S., c/o Mrs. Gordon Clark, Mickleham Court, Mickleham, Surrey.
1912. Maude, W. I., 22A, Margaret Street, Cavendish Square, W.; c/o Mrs. Wilson, Wedhampton Cottage, Devizes, Wilts.
1913. Owen, D.M., 21, Westbourne Gardens, London, W. (home).
1904. Owen, M. E., 21, Westbourne Gardens, London, W. (home).
1912. Rohde, D., c/o Mrs. Martin, Hilden, Monaghan, Ireland (post).

1909. Tasker, Mrs. T. J. (née J. H. Mellis-Smith), Lanmoor, Colinton, Midlothian (till September 11th); afterwards c/o T. J. Tasker, Esq., I.C.S., Madras Club, Madras, India.

MARRIAGE.

TASKER—MELLIS-SMITH.—On April 3rd, at Madras, by Rev. G. M. M'Phail, B.D., T. J. Tasker, I.C.S., elder son of Rev. Dr. Tasker, Handsworth College, Birmingham, to Jessie Helen, daughter of the late Rev. George Smith, of Swatow, China, and of Mrs. Mellis-Smith, Colinton, Midlothian.

NOTICES, ETC.

The Editor has tried to collect particulars about any war work being done by any of us, but she has not been very successful. However, the following little items may interest students:

Miss Fraser (1902) is working for the Women's Emergency Corps in the finance department, and hopes to go to France shortly to work in canteens. She has also been doing S.S.F.A. work, and helping to feed Belgian refugees. Miss W. Wilkinson, of the same year, is nursing every afternoon till 7 p.m., and meets trains of wounded, etc. Miss Parish (1902) has been patrolling in London, in the Woman's Patrol (officially recognized by the police). But she has had to give it up, being too busy otherwise. Mrs. Esslemont (1903) and Miss Wilson (1903) are doing the same work, and Miss W. Kitching (1893) is going to try her hand at it. Mrs. Hudson (1902) is secretary of committees for relieving distress caused by the war in her husband's parish, and, perhaps best of all, Mrs. Pringle (1902) and Mrs. Blease (1904) have sent their husbands. Mrs. Blease is working at a soldiers' canteen near Liverpool, where there is a large camp, and she is also working in connection with S.S.F.A.

Miss Francis (1904) is working once a week, in the evening, at a soldiers' canteen near her post, and sells things to them and plays games with them. Miss Harriet Smeeton (1905) is doing quite original work, for she is learning to milk cows and to drive a motor! She intends being prepared in harvest time to drive from farm to farm to milk the cows, so that the men may be free to work in the fields uninterrupted. She also continues her work with the Boy Scouts. Mrs. Pyper (1904) has wounded soldiers to tea every Saturday, and at one time gave up a large room to some men billeted near, as their recreation room. Miss M. E. Owen (1904) is, as many of us know, selling stamps at Aldershot to the men. We have, most of us, read about her interesting work in the *P.R.* Miss Pennethorne's school children have nurses to tea with them, to give them a change and a rest, and they enjoy looking after them, and washing up afterwards. The school-room also is lent one evening a week for the making of sand-bags for the front. Miss E. Flower's pupils have taken over some regular house and garden work to help to fill the places of dismissed servants. Miss Tibbits (1903) is Red Cross nurse at a newly-opened military hospital in Nottingham. Miss Gibson (1911) is working every night at making and preparing respirators. The work is under the War Office authorities. Miss R. Williams (1901) has returned to England from British Columbia, and is now gardener in Kew Gardens for the duration of the war. Twelve women gardeners are being taken on there to fill the gaps.

Miss Monro (1906), who has been working as a missionary in G.E. Africa, was interned with other missionaries at the beginning of the war, and has been going through bad times. It is to be hoped that she is released now, but no more recent news has reached the Editor.

Ex-students will all be very sorry to hear that Mademoiselle Mottu has been obliged to give up her work at

Scale How because of a breakdown in health. We all wish her a speedy recovery and a happy life in Switzerland, where she now is with her sister. Two little notes from her will be found further on in this number.

Perhaps all students do not know that the badge so kindly promised to the P.U.S. by Mrs. Bishop is now ready, and Miss Gray has some for sale. It is of dull silver, a soaring lark surrounded by a little wreath of daisies; very pretty, and much liked by those children who have it. It costs 2s.

The next number of L'UMILE PIANTA will appear on November 15th. All communications must reach the Editor by October 15th.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Will all students who have not yet paid their subscriptions for L'UMILE PIANTA kindly do so at their earliest convenience. Miss Gray's address is 3, St. David's Avenue, Bexhill, Sussex.

STUDENTS' MEETINGS.

Those of us who met at 27, Craven Road, on June 7th were conscious of the absence of Miss Gray, who has always been such a staunch and hospitable supporter of all students' meetings. Her kindly thoughts, however, came to those present in the form of a telegram. The most novel feature of the meeting was the presence of two fox-terriers, not ex-students!

The conversation ran chiefly in three channels. The war, of course! Then the coming P.N.E.U. Conference. Those chosen to give lessons to the children on the 15th expressed their feelings as being similar to those which ushered in their first "crits"! Over the tea-cups we discussed the advisability of holding our next Students' Conference at Easter. Some thought that we should enjoy it so much more after

peace is declared, while others thought it would be such a delightful oasis, in the midst of all that harasses and burdens so many at this time.

The warmth of the day, no doubt, allured some of the usual members to betake themselves to the country. Those present were the Misses Bradley, Claxton, Edwards, Evans, Faunce, MacSheehy, J. R. Smith, and Young.

LETTERS.

Scale How, Ambleside,
Avril, 1915.

Je suis un "Participe Passé" et, comme je me suis toujours bien accordée avec vous toutes, je viens vous dire au revoir.

Bon succès dans vos occupations.

Votre amie,
J. MOTTU.

[The Editor much regrets that this letter was delayed, and reached her too late for the last L'UMILE PIANTA.]

5, Avenue Beaulieu,
Grange Canal, Genève.
10 juin.

Mademoiselle Mottu remercie les étudiantes qui lui ont témoigné leur sympathie en lui écrivant. Elle ne peut répondre à toutes individuellement. Elle les remercie pour tous leurs bons vœux et elle leur souhaite Bonheur et Prospérité.

3, St. David's Avenue,
Bexhill, Sussex,
June 22nd, 1915.

DEAR FELLOW-STUDENTS,

Before this comes out in the magazine the July Students' Meeting will have passed, and there will not be another until

the first Saturday in October: after that there will be a meeting on the first Saturday of each month until next summer holidays.

As you know, the meetings are held at 27, Craven Road, at 3.30—by the kind invitation of Miss Faunce and Miss Evans. I am sure we all feel most grateful to them for giving us the use of their school on these occasions, and the very best way of showing our gratitude is by attending the meetings just as often as ever we can. Of course I know that there are not a great many students who can be there at every meeting, but I feel very strongly that the meetings might be much better attended than they are. There are a great many students who are within easy reach of London and a good many who are actually within the London area, and if these made a little more effort to leave the first Saturday of each month free there would be larger and therefore more successful meetings. I regret very much that my home is now too far away from Town for me to get up each month, but in my own mind I have vowed a vow to come up for one meeting in each term, for nothing keeps one in better touch with students; one meeting is better than lots of letters! Won't other students who are similarly situated make the same vow? It would only mean coming up three times a year, and the meetings would be larger at once. The regular attenders know how much more enjoyable a meeting is when we have the pleasure of seeing students whom we had not expected to see, in addition to those whom we felt sure would be there. So let us make a special effort during the next months and make the most of these opportunities of having our enthusiasm rekindled—more especially as we are waiting an extra year for the next conference.

With kind regards to all, and hoping to meet many of you from time to time at Craven Road, I am, yours sincerely,

LILIAN GRAY.

3, St. David's Avenue,
Bexhill, Sussex.

DEAR FELLOW-STUDENTS,

The year is creeping on, and we have been thinking over the matter of the next conference, which would, in the ordinary course of things, have been held next Easter. But the war still continues, and we feel that if the coming winter is to be a repetition of the last, there will be no leisure in which to prepare a programme, and that our money will be so badly needed in other channels that we should hardly be justified in spending it in this way. Even should the actual fighting be over before the winter, there will still be much to do, and much help will be required for many a long day. The 1914 Conference was a great success after waiting the extra year, and I see no reason why the next one should not be the same; and if we wait until life resumes a more normal course we shall be able to throw ourselves whole-heartedly into the planning of it.

Under the circumstances the S.E.C. feel that they are taking the right step in postponing the conference for a year. No doubt this will come as a fresh idea to many, and possibly even as somewhat of a shock, but we feel sure we are acting for the best, and I think that if students will honestly think the matter over in their own minds, setting personal inclination aside, that they will come to the same conclusion.

So let us all look forward to doing our share when the time comes towards making the 1917 Conference a huge success, and, meantime, let us direct the energies that would have been put into conference work through the winter into the many other channels where help is so badly needed. We have heard a good deal during the P.N.E.U. Conference about the privileges of living in war-time, and possibly this decision will leave us freer to realize these privileges and to live up to them as best we may. Hoping that you will all have happy holidays, I am, yours sincerely,

LILIAN GRAY (Hon. Sec.). (Written on behalf of the S.E.C.)

Bredenbury Court,
Bromyard, Worcester,

June 26th, 1915.

DEAR EDITOR,

I thought it worth while to bring before your notice a most useful kind of desk for the table. I expect other students have found, like I have, the faults and inconvenience for children who have to work at a table. The stooping position is bad in itself, but besides this, writing and reading on the flat are so trying for the eyes.

This desk, which measures about $11\frac{1}{2}$ ins. by $17\frac{1}{2}$ ins., is made of strong cardboard in the form of a box with a sloping lid. The lid has four strong paper corners to hold blotting-paper, several good sheets of which are already fixed in. The price of the desk is 1s. 11d., and can be obtained from the Army and Navy Stores, Victoria Street, S.W.

I find this desk answers the purpose admirably, and each of my children have one. Exercise-books, pens, etc., can conveniently be kept inside the desk.—I am, yours sincerely,

M. KING.

DEAR EDITOR,

I thought perhaps you would like to hear something about the work that is being done in Worcester among some of the factory girls. Anyone who has any acquaintance at all with Worcester knows how large a part the factories play in the lives of the poorer citizens. There are factories for the manufacture of almost every conceivable article, beside the well-known Worcester china, Kay's boots, Dent's and Fownes's gloves, Lea and Perrin's Worcester sauce, and the large engineering works of Heenan & Froude. In all these factories a large percentage of the employees are girls, so that it will be readily seen what a vast scope there is here for work amongst them.

A few years ago a Girls' Club was started in connection with a mission in the city, and to carry on the work a nurse

was provided who had an aptitude for work amongst girls and who could also nurse them when they were "took awful bad," to use a common expression amongst them. A room with a piano in it was provided for their use, and here on winter evenings they met twice a week. I go to the club every Monday, so I can speak of the work from personal experience. The girls do needlework on that night while a book is read aloud to them. They are now deep in a thrilling missionary story, but that does not prevent their putting in a good deal of work, too.

A very good system for collecting money for foreign missions has been adopted. Some material was bought to make garments for the club girls' families. These were bought by those desiring them, and the money received was used to swell the missionary fund, a little being saved to buy more material if necessary. In this way a double object is served, as not only are the girls induced to take an interest in missionary work, but they are taught how to make their own clothes. Their interest in foreign missions is also fostered by having a collecting-box for the South Africa General Mission and a magazine each month issued in connection with that mission, which is passed round for all the members of the club to read.

On Tuesday evenings the girls are instructed in matters of general knowledge, when any subject on which they want information is fully explained to them and current events are discussed.

The Pocket Testament League meeting is held at the Mission on Wednesday evening, which all the girls attend, and on Thursday evening they are taught how to cut out and make their own clothes. These are the winter arrangements. In the summer they are a little different. Instead of doing needlework on Mondays, they play net-ball in some private grounds which have been lent them during the summer. They are all fond of the game, and play very enthusiastically. On

Tuesday evenings they go for a walk or play net-ball again. Every Sunday afternoon the nurse holds a Bible Class for the girls.

The one condition of membership for the club is total abstinence from strong drink.

Of course, work amongst club girls entails much responsibility and hard work, but one feels well repaid by the pleasure which the girls get from association with the club and its many activities.—Yours, etc.,

G. A.

Scale How, Ambleside,

June 24th.

DEAR EX-STUDENTS,

This term there have been several important events, the first of which was a visit from Miss Kitching's brother, Archdeacon Kitching. He arrived on Friday, May 27th, and a musical evening was given in his honour. It was arranged by the juniors, and included, among other items, songs by Miss Parker and Miss Gass, two recitations, a Scotch two-part song, a trio (the "Snow-song"), and "Oh, no, John." The last was sung by all the juniors. Archdeacon Kitching preached on Sunday morning about missionary work in Uganda, and in the afternoon he gave an address in the classroom to the assembled house, including the school children. He told us chiefly about his experiences in learning the native language of the Ateso people. When he first went to their country from Uganda he knew the Uganda language, and was accompanied by a native boy from Uganda who could speak Ateso. No book had ever been written either in or about the Ateso language, and Mr. Kitching could only learn it by means of conversation carried on by signs. He had also to invent a system of spelling, which was by no means easy, as there are some very curious sounds in the language. He told us also about the difficulties of the grammar and

inflexions of the language, giving as one example, the words "uma" (my nose), "umi" (your nose), and "ume" (his nose). When translating the Prayer Book and Bible, he often found that some words such as "worship" did not even exist in the native language. "Amen" is the Ateso word for "I despise," he told us, so the word "Kekote nepenen" (so may it be) had to be used instead after every prayer. Mr. Kitching showed us an Ateso grammar that he had written and a translation of St. John's Gospel. He left Ambleside on Tuesday.

On the following Thursday, June 3rd, Mr. Maurice Brockwell, a Cambridge Extension lecturer, whose daughter is in the P.U.S., came to give us a lecture on "English Art from 600-1850 A.D." It was illustrated by lantern slides, which Dr. Hough kindly showed. About fifty people from the neighbourhood came to hear the lecture, and Miss Mason took advantage of the occasion to put on the hall-table a collecting-box for the British prisoners in Germany. Mr. Brockwell first illustrated the rise and fall of British art by a chart on the screen, and then described the art of each period at greater length. I think most of us agreed that the most interesting part of the lecture was the description of the Celtic art, which was illustrated by beautiful slides of interlacing patterns and illuminated manuscripts. We also saw specimens of German art at various periods, which were severely criticized by the lecturer.

On June 4th Mr. Thornley paid us his much-enjoyed annual visit. He was entertained on Monday evening by the juniors' play. They acted "She Stoops to Conquer," by Goldsmith, and kept the audience thoroughly amused through the whole performance. On Tuesday Mr. Thornley took the seniors for a walk. We went to Sweden Bridge, and then on up the valley of the Scandale Beck. We took our dinner with us, so that we could have one long walk instead of two short ones. A flock of sheep

passed us, and Mr. Thornley called one of the dogs to have his nose tickled with *Juncus squarrosus*! It was a beautiful day, and we were able to find a great many interesting creatures, including about seven kinds of beetles, three butterflies, four moths, and many other insects. We found a large black and yellow dragon-fly, and also some small red ones. On the banks of the upper part of the stream we found both Cut-leaved and Star Saxifrage. On Wednesday Mr. Thornley took the juniors to Lily Tarn in the morning; they, too, found dragon-flies and other creatures. In the afternoon he took the school children for a walk to the Nook, and in the evening he inspected the Botanical Gardens. He advised us to sow plenty of seed in the autumn, and then to thin the plants out in the spring, instead of transplanting plants that had grown up in other soil and surroundings.

On Tuesday, June 15th, a Mr. Rawnsley, who had been an intimate friend of Tennyson, came to tell us some of his personal reminiscences of the poet. He began by telling us about Tennyson's childhood and youth, and made his story interesting with many an anecdote; his personal recollections dated from the time when Tennyson was comparatively young and when Mr. Rawnsley himself was only five years old. Mr. Rawnsley had scarcely reached the period of the poet's marriage when the clock struck half-past nine. He said that he would like to tell us the rest some other time, so Miss Mason asked him to come the following week. Accordingly, he came last Tuesday, and was, if possible, even more interesting than the week before, as he had so many more personal reminiscences of Tennyson's later life.

The drawing-room evenings this term have been: Mark Twain, by Miss Bartlett; George Macdonald, by Miss Hussey; Chelsea, by Miss Haggard; Cairo, by Miss Devonshire; Sir Walter Scott, by Miss Purves; and a Shakespeare Evening, by Miss Bennett.

A new feature this term, which greatly pleases most of us,

is that we now play cricket once a week in the field adjoining the Botanical Gardens. The school children play one afternoon and two evenings a week. We are hoping to have a match soon.

You will be sorry to hear that Mademoiselle Mottu has been obliged to leave us, owing to ill-health. She is now in Switzerland with her sister, and her place on the staff is taken by Mademoiselle Pierson.

We are going to have a course of first-aid lectures from Dr. Allen during the rest of this term. The first will take place this evening at 7.45.—We remain, yours sincerely,

THE PRESENT STUDENTS.

P.N.E.U. CONFERENCE, 1915.

Early on the morning of Tuesday, June 15th, there were signs of hurry and preparation in the big hall of the Y.M.C.A. in Tottenham Court Road, and at 9.30 a.m. those of us who had arrived were given helpful hints and instructions by Miss Parish for the work of the morning. Soon after this children of all ages, each with neat little label pinned on, giving details as to form and place, etc., happy, eager children, came pouring in through the big hall, and after depositing coats and hats in the background, took their places according to the numbers on their labels denoting row and seat. There was a constant hum of conversation until at 10.30 Mrs. Franklin and Miss Parish took their places on the platform, and we felt that the day was really going to begin in earnest. Mrs. Franklin spoke a few words of welcome to the children, then, after singing the Conference hymn and having a short prayer, read by Miss Parish, the children passed out of the hall in single file, up the big stone staircase and along the corridors to the several class-rooms. There were about 180 children

present, and so it was necessary to have two or three groups of each class, most classes averaging about twenty children. Parents eager to see their children at work, school inspectors with pencils and paper busy taking notes, passed in and out of the various rooms, and the morning passed very happily, though far too quickly for all, especially the children, until at 12 o'clock the order came to go down to the big hall in the order we had come up. There, all assembled again, Miss Parish read Miss Mason's beautiful letter to the children, and told them about the new badge which was ready for them, the design for which had been given by Mrs. Bishop, and a message of thanks was sent to Miss Miss Mason and to Mrs. Bishop by the Head Scout present, Mary Yates, who afterwards talked to the children about scouting. At the same time in other rooms papers were given by Miss Eleanor Frost and Miss Wix.

At 1.15 p.m. all adjourned for luncheon, and the events of the morning were discussed by children and grown-ups too! The afternoon was given up to expeditions to various museums and places of interest, arranged beforehand by Miss Parish; and in the evening, at 8.30 p.m., there was the big Annual Meeting in the Y.M.C.A.

Mrs. Franklin read a paper by Miss Mason, illustrated by entertaining extracts from the Easter examination papers. The next day there were meetings both in the morning and afternoon, and at 4.30 p.m. we met again at 50, Porchester Terrace, at the kind invitation of Mrs. Franklin, and there, in the cool of the garden, we talked and enjoyed strawberries and cream! Throughout the Conference everything went as smoothly and easily as could well be imagined, owing to the untiring efforts of Miss Parish and the months of preparation she had given to the work. Every minute detail had been thought out and arranged, so that when the day came all one had to do was to listen to instructions and act on them. Truly we are to be envied for our splendidly thoughtful and